

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 13, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. EVANS submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims to whom was referred the petition of Catharine Lydia McLeod, only surviving heir of Ebenezer Markham, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report :*

The petitioner is the daughter and only surviving heir of Ebenezer Markham. That at the breaking out of the American revolution her father was a merchant residing at Montreal, and warmly espoused the cause of the *rebels*, as they were called ; that her father, in consequence, was seized and imprisoned for a long time at various periods of the war ; that after or during the struggle for independence he removed to the United States and settled, first in New York, on a piece of land, 320 acres, given by the said State, which was poor and of little value ; that he afterwards settled in Vermont, where he was sued for his old debts contracted whilst he resided in Canada, and imprisoned until his death in 1818, as he was unable to pay.

The above is a summary of the facts stated in the petition. The evidence, though not very satisfactory, is perhaps the best which can now be produced. Your committee, heretofore, have been constrained to report against these antiquated claims. If the facts stated be true, the said Ebenezer Markham was treated with great severity by the enemy on account of his principles ; but hundreds of others suffered as much in defence of civil liberty, and if the treasury should be opened to all who suffered in person and property during that memorable struggle for independence it would soon be empty. After a lapse of 75 years, your committee do not feel at liberty to recommend the petitioner's case to the favorable consideration of Congress, and, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of it.

